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Report

“ACDC’s First Anniversary Review Meeting”

November 4, 2020



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The Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the “ACDC’s First Anniversary Review Meeting” on November 4, 2020. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, moderated the meeting. The members of ACDC’s Advisory Board and ISSI research faculty joined the meeting both physically and virtually.

Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, first briefed the participants on the vision, functions, and major research themes of the ACDC. He highlighted that the ACDC was established on October 30, 2019, with a vision to contribute focused research and quality policy input through in-depth analysis and dialogue on issues of arms control, disarmament, nuclear safety and security, nuclear deterrence, emerging technologies and challenges to peace and strategic stability. The functions of ACDC includes: monitoring regional and international developments about strategic stability, disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and related domains; organise dialogues; disseminate information through research projects, special reports, magazines, newsletters, infographics, electronic flyers, electronic and social media tools; provide quality policy inputs to relevant official departments and maintain contacts with national and international think tanks.

He informed the participants on what the Centre had accomplished in the last year. To provide overall guidance and policy directions, the ACDC constituted its Advisory Board and held its first meeting on January 29, 2020. The Board consists of relevant experts from academia, think tanks, government, and official departments. In addition to the research activities, he also updated the participants regarding the ACDC-ISSI Vision 2023.

Since its establishment, the ACDC has organised the following events:

- Roundtable on “India’s Space Programme: Global Implications,” (February 25, 2020).
- Seminar on “Emerging Technologies and their Impact on Strategic Stability in South Asia,” (March 12, 2020).
- Web Celebration of “Youme-e-Takbeer,” (May 28, 2020).
- Webinar on “COVID19: Use of Technology as a New Normal,” (June 9, 2020).

- Webinar on “Shifting Indian Nuclear Doctrine: Implications for Regional Security,” (July 2, 2020).
- Webinar on “Changing Global Arms Control Norms: Implications for South Asia,” (July 21, 2020).
- Web Celebration of Pakistan “Defence Day,” (September 6, 2020).
- Web Talk on “Changing Global Dynamics of Cyber Threats and their Impact on National Security,” (September 11, 2020).

Director ACDC informed participants about the major themes and takeaways of these events. All participants appreciated the working of the Centre and put forward constructive and valuable recommendations for future projects on various international and national issues related to arms control and disarmament. The meeting ended with Cake Cutting Ceremony by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI.

PICTURES OF THE EVENT



